



The Grebe

Volume 8, Issue 1

Winter 2012

Mission of The Friends of
Deer Flat:

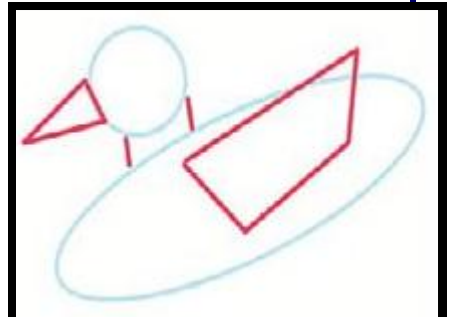
The purpose of this group is to promote, protect, and provide resources to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Inside this issue:

Junior Duck Stamp Art Day	1, 2
Upcoming Events	3
Welcome to the New Staff	4
Osprey Cam Update	5
National Wildlife Refuges	6
Whittenberger Foundation Grant	6
Refuge Volunteer Opportunities	7
Helping Wildlife Conservation Efforts	8
Lake Lowell Draft Mule Deer Hunt Plan	9
CCP Timeline	9
Support NWRA	10
Script Update	11
Membership & Internship Information	12-14
Lecture Series	15

JUNIOR DUCK STAMP ART DAY

Kindergarten to high school students are invited to drop in to the Refuge Visitor Center for Junior Duck Stamp Art Day to get ready to submit their own masterpiece to the Idaho Junior Duck Stamp art contest. Visitors are invited to drop in any time between 10am and 4pm on January 3-7, 14, 21 and 28; February 11, 18, and 25; and March 3 and 10. Learn about Idaho waterfowl and create your own Junior Duck Stamp art contest entry. All the supplies you will need to create your artwork will be provided, from "how to draw a duck" instructions to waterfowl specimens and field guides to art supplies like colored pencils and pastels.



Step 2. Draw the bill with a triangle shape. Draw the wing with a slanted rectangle shape.

All Idaho students can enter their Junior Duck



Painting by Harrison Goecke,
2011 Best of Show

Stamp artwork into the state-wide contest. The program provides an opportunity for students to artistically express their knowledge of the diversity, interdependence, and beauty of wildlife. Students must submit their artwork by **March 15th, 2012**. Entries are judged in four categories: grades K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Over twenty-five ribbons are awarded to winning entries in each age group. All students that submit a contest entry receive a certificate of participation.

Continued on page 4

The winning artwork in Idaho will be submitted to the national contest. In addition to seeing their artwork on the 2011 Junior Duck Stamp, the first place winner in the national contest will receive a \$5000 cash award and a free trip to Washington, DC. The second and third place winners in the national contest receive \$3000 and \$2000 cash awards.

Classroom teachers, homeschoolers, Scout leaders, other environmental educators should also ask about the new Youth and Educators' Guides, as well as the new Junior Duck Stamp traveling trunk that can be borrowed for up to two weeks.

For further information, visit <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/education/jrduck.html> or contact 208-467-9278 or deerflat@fws.gov.



Painting by Sage Schleicher



Painting by Ozzy Wexler



Painting by Grant Routson

Painting by Jessica Noel,
5th Best of Show



Mark your calendar...

Upcoming Events

Junior Duck Stamp Art Days

January 3 - 7

Lecture Series - Identifying raptors in southwestern Idaho

Tuesday, January 10, 7 p.m.

See page 14 for additional information

Junior Duck Stamp Art Days

January 14

January 21

January 28

Scout Day

Saturday, February 4

Junior Duck Stamp Art Days

February 11

Lecture Series - What about Cheatgrass?

Tuesday, February 21, 7 p.m.

(note this is the 3rd week of the month)

See page 14 for additional information

Junior Duck Stamp Art Days

February 18

February 25

Junior Duck Stamp Art Days

March 3

March 10

Lecture Series - TBA

Tuesday, March 13, 7 p.m.

See page 14 for additional information

Scout Day

Saturday, March 17

Scout Day Information. Sign up your wolf, bear, and webelo Cub Scouts or Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts to earn wildlife-related badges. Pre-registration is required. Call 467-9278 or e-mail deerflat@fws.gov to pre-register.

Junior Duck Stamp Art Days

See pages 1 & 4 for more information

Upcoming Refuge Events:

For more information on all events, contact the refuge at 467-9278 or deerflat@fws.gov

The **Grebe** newsletter is published quarterly. If you have an article or photo that you would like to be included in a future newsletter, please contact Denise Hughes at den.hug100@gmail.com

Welcome to new Refuge Staff!

On your next visit to the Refuge, you might notice several new faces. Stan Culling, the new Wildlife Refuge Specialist (Deputy Refuge Manager), arrived in December.

Stan arrived from Arizona. He is a lifelong native of Arizona. Raised in the small town of Arivaca, AZ, Stan was introduced to nature at a young age. Exploration of the wild kingdom instilled an interest which would further his aspirations to gain a degree in Renewable Natural Resources (Wildlife, Watershed and Rangeland Resources) from the University of Arizona (UA). While attending UA, Stan was accepted in the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP). In 2001 and 2002 he gained valuable knowledge working as a Wildlife Biologist Intern at San Bernardino and Sevilleta NWR's. A transition from field study coursework would later assist Stan as he accepted a Wildlife Biologist position at the Bill Williams River NWR (BWRNWR) in Parker, AZ in spring 2004. In 2007, Stan was selected as the new Wildlife Refuge Specialist at BWRNWR.

While working there, Stan lead field crews and provided project coordination for hydrologic and biological monitoring. Field surveys also included the recovery actions of native threatened and endangered Razorback sucker, Bonytail chub, Southwestern Willow flycatcher and Yuma Clapper rail. Stan directed day-to-day operations as well as coordinating the volunteer program. Stan assisted adjacent land managers with improving natural resources to improve overall ecological health. Stan wrote and implemented the Pilot restoration plan which ultimately converted 20 acres of retired decadent agricultural field back to native flora. Stan brings a new energy to the Wildlife Refuge Specialist at Deer Flat NWR.

Stan along with his fiancé Niki and their three children are excited to explore the surrounding beauty of Treasure Valley.

Ray Portwood, the new Zone Law Enforcement Officer, and Kash Anderson, the new Volunteer Coordinator, will both be arriving in January. Next time you're at the Visitor Center, please introduce yourself and offer these new staff a warm Friends welcome!

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge Osprey-Cam

Yes, the webcam is still in operation during these winter months. Sometimes the watching is a little sketchy, and other times you may see photos like those shown here plus scenic views of the ice-covered lake.



Canada Geese



Ducks on the ice



Silhouette of a Cooper's Hawk



Menace over Lake Lowell

National Wildlife Refuges

Here are the big federal fee free dates that you need to know for 2012. See you outside!

The Fish and Wildlife Service and National Wildlife Refuge System:

- January 14 to 16 (Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend)
- June 9 (Get Outdoors Day)
- September 29 (National Public Lands Day)
- October 14th (National Wildlife Refuge Week)
- November 10 to 12 (Veterans Day weekend)

The National Park Service:

- January 14 to 16 (Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend)
- April 21 to 29 (National Park Week)
- June 9 (Get Outdoors Day)
- September 29 (National Public Lands Day)
- November 10 to 12 (Veterans Day weekend)

Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service:

- January 14 to 16 (Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend)
- June 9 (Get Outdoors Day)
- September 29 (National Public Lands Day)
- November 10 to 12 (Veterans Day weekend)

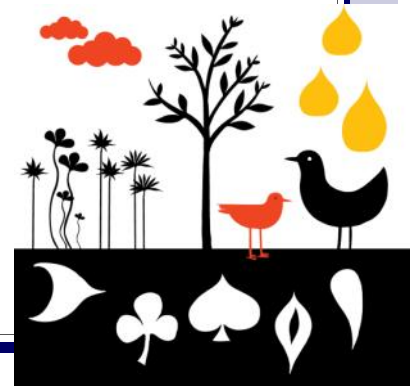
Bureau of Reclamation:

- September 29 (National Public Lands Day)
- November 10 to 12 (Veterans Day weekend)

Deer Flat Friends receive grant from the Whittenberger Foundation!

In early December, the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge was awarded a \$2500 grant from the Whittenberger Foundation. The grant money will be used to provide scholarships to schools to cover transportation costs for students to participate in the "Discover Wildlife Journeys" curriculum.

The Friends Executive Board wants to thank the Whittenberger Foundation for this generous grant. Students in Nampa and Caldwell will be able to participate in opportunities to connect with nature at the refuge.



Volunteer Opportunities...

Hello and Happy New Year, Friends.

Another year has come and gone. I wish you nothing but the best for this upcoming year. May it be full of happiness and good health for you and your loved ones.

There is no better place to relieve cabin fever in the Treasure Valley than Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. Lake Lowell and the Snake River Islands are buzzing with wildlife activity even in the chilliest of months. Come watch all the geese and ducks fly during dawn and dusk, and you just might even see a bald eagle or too! Or take a hike on one of our several trails on the Refuge to get some fresh air and exercise.

Another way to cure cabin fever is volunteering at Deer Flat. The Refuge always welcomes help with our **Reading at the Refuge** pre-school program on the first and third Tuesdays and Wednesdays of each month. If you enjoy working with kids and want to share your knowledge about wildlife, think about becoming a **group leader** at the monthly **Scout Day**. Or even think about becoming a Saturday **Visitor Center host**. And lastly, watch your email boxes for a notice about **Wood Duck box surveying** and repairing in late February and early March. I personally want to thank you for a fantastic year at the Refuge. It was a wonderful experience getting to know and work with many volunteers and Friends throughout 2011. I appreciate the advice, support, and kind words that were directed my way during my internship. Thank you!

With that, I would like to introduce the new Volunteer Coordinator for 2012: Kash Anderson. Kash will be working hard to run the Refuge volunteer program and assist the Friends. Feel free to stop by the Visitor Center offices to introduce yourself and say hello to Kash. We are confident he is going to do a fantastic job and bring some new energy to the volunteer program and Friends.

If any of these opportunities sound up your alley, or you would like to learn more about other volunteer positions and events, please feel free to let the Refuge know. Susan will be handling volunteer inquiries until Kash starts on January 17. You can contact the Refuge at 467-9278 or at deerflat@fws.gov.

Enjoy the winter season, Friends, and take care!

Cody Dix
Former Volunteer Coordinator

Future Postage Stamp could help NWRS Wildlife Conservation Efforts

The proposed NWRS stamp would be similar in concept to the recently released "Save Vanishing Species Stamp"



A bill recently introduced in the House would create a Wildlife Refuge Conservation stamp to be sold by the U.S. Postal Service that would support wildlife conservation through additional funding for National Wildlife Refuge System. Both NWRA and the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) support the proposal for this new "semipostal" stamp.

The new stamp would cost slightly more than a regular postage stamp, 55 cents – 11 cents more than an individual First Class mail stamp - and the additional funds would go to funding the Refuge System's important conservation mission. This is similar in concept to the recently created "Save Vanishing Species Semipostal Stamp" released by the U.S. Postal Service in September. Adorned by an archetypical illustration of an Amur tiger cub, this stamp allows customers to donate to the Fish and Wildlife Service's Multinational Species Conservation Fund to protect elephants, great apes, rhinoceros, tigers, and other charismatic species found around the world.

The bill, H.R. 2236, was introduced by Representative Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, of the Northern Marianas Islands, and has 46 bi-partisan co-sponsors, including John Flemming, Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs. Look for an alert from NWRA in early 2012 urging Congress to pass this important bill!

You can buy the "Save Vanishing Species" stamp at the link below:

https://shop.usps.com/wcsstore/PostalStore/upload/htm/savevanishingspecies/?WT.ac=SaveVanishingSpecies-S_576640

Sourced from the December 2011 edition of NWRA "The Flyer"

For additional information about the National Wildlife Refuge Association or to read the current newsletter, visit: www.refugeassociation.org

Lake Lowell Draft Mule Deer Hunt Plan

available for public review and comments

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is seeking public comments on a Draft Mule Deer Hunt Plan, Environmental Assessment (EA), and compatibility determination (CD) for Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge's Lake Lowell Unit located in southwestern Idaho. The Service examined the impacts of opening both a controlled mule deer hunt season and a depredation hunt season on portions of the Lake Lowell Unit. Short range weapons would be used for both seasons.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game and other stakeholders identified important mule deer issues, including managing the refuge's mule deer population, providing mule deer hunting opportunities, and controlling agricultural depredation by mule deer, during initial planning for the refuge's comprehensive conservation plan. In response, the Service examined these issues under a separate planning process to expedite development of the Draft Hunt Plan, EA, and CD.

The Draft Hunt Plan and associated documents are available for public review and comments on the refuge's Web site: <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat>. Printed copies of the documents may be viewed or obtained at the refuge's visitor center located at 13751 Upper Embankment Road, Nampa, ID. Public comments on the Draft Hunt Plan and associated documents are due: January 5, 2012. Send your comments by either of the following methods.



Email: Eric_anderson@fws.gov
Mail: US Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System
Attn: Eric Anderson, PVST
911 NE 11th Ave
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

CCP TIMELINE

Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) Planning Timeline:

Spring 2012	Release Draft CCP/EIS for public comment
Winter 2012	Release Final CCP/EIS

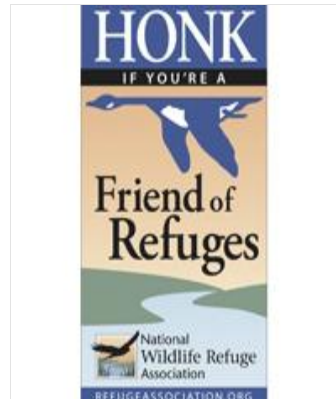
Additional opportunities for the public to comment and provide input will be announced in future planning updates and on the website

Support the National Wildlife Refuge Association

\$50 Donation or more:



\$25 Donation or more:



\$25 Donation or more:



In recognition of your contribution, you may select a 'Honk if you like Refuges!' or 'Protect the Arctic' decal — or choose a plush polar bear with your donation of \$50 or more. With your help, we will work to protect refuges and the wildlife that depend on them around the country. Our annual report shows what a great year 2011 was for NWRA and our refuges. 2012 can be even better but we need your help to extend our reach and increase our impact. Our supporters are our greatest strength — without you, we couldn't do what we do! And with your generosity, we'll be able to do even more.



Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge in 2011



**A big THANK YOU to all of you who participated in the first SCRIP Card order.
It was a SUCCESS.
We had 10 different orders totaling \$3379.50 face value.
The Friends netted \$206 from this order.
That's earnings of 6%.**

The beauty of scrip is that you put your regular household shopping dollars to work. You earn money for our group without spending a single additional penny. Just spend your regular shopping dollars with scrip at the stores that participate in the scrip program! And scrip can be used for just about any household purchase including food, clothing, entertainment, gasoline and even dining out.

We are anticipating sending in another Scrip Order prior to Valentines Day. Watch your email prior to that time. If you have questions about Scrip, contact Bob Christensen at rcloydchris@juno.com or phone 208-454-2518.



Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge

13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686
208-459-47400

January 2011

Subject: 2012 Memberships and Internship Donations

Dear Friends of Deer Flat:

As you know, Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge offers many wonderful opportunities to the greater Treasure Valley community. Visitors can watch a variety of wildlife as they stop along the verdant shorelines of Lake Lowell during all four seasons. Children can learn about biology and ecology through free Refuge education programs throughout the year, and Deer Flat offers a place for friends and families to gather and enjoy the beauty of nature as they go hiking, fishing or boating.

Currently, the Refuge staff is creating a Comprehensive Conservation Plan to help guide management of the Refuge for the next 15 years. This planning process will align Deer Flat management policies with both Federal law and goals recently adopted by the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Deer Flat CCP aims to improve refuge conditions to better manage fish and wildlife and their habitats as well as allow for appropriate recreational opportunities in the long term, making the refuge a better place for migratory birds, fish, and local visitors.

Challenges

While Refuge staff works determinedly to improve Deer Flat's management policies, several local and national politicians have been working in the opposite direction, trying to undermine the process. Locally, county officials have disputed Federal jurisdiction over Lake Lowell and are talking about gaining local control of the refuge. And on the national level, Idaho's representatives in D.C. are threatening to strip away Lake Lowell's National Wildlife Refuge status by adding a rider to a budgetary bill.

Non-political opposition has been equally vocal about the CCP process. Local recreation groups have criticized CCP efforts, spreading misinformation through the local media. These groups have focused solely on potential motorized boating restrictions without considering the larger benefits of the plan. We believe these groups are placing their own interests above the larger goal: ensuring that Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge becomes a better place for wildlife which current and future generations can enjoy.

Solution

To increase the positive support for the Refuge the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge, as a non-profit organization, is proposing to engage an intern to lead a campaign that draws attention to and promotes the contributions of the Refuge to the local economy and community.

The intern's responsibilities will include: 1) leading a strategic campaign to publicize and promote how the refuge adds to our community, 2) developing pro-refuge relationships that expand the Friends' current support network, 3) improving communication tools and campaign messages, and 4) growing the Friends' membership base. An internship format is necessary because current board members and active Friends members have already committed to specific short and long-term projects. A dedicated and compensated intern with a specific skill set can focus on tasks related to this immediate need.

It is estimated that \$12,000 must be raised to allow the Friends group to recruit a highly qualified person for a one-year internship.

As a current or former member of the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge your help is needed. We are asking you to strongly consider increasing your donation level as you renew your membership this year. If you have had an individual membership (\$10 or \$15) can you double or triple that amount; or a family membership (\$25.00) can you double that to \$50.00 when you renew? If you cannot increase your current donation, can you consider a dedicated donation of \$10.00 or \$15.00 to bring this intern on board, or perhaps several monthly donations? If you cannot increase your membership or make a donation, is there someone that you know who has not joined the Friends group that you can invite as a new member this year? Do you work for a company that would be willing to make a donation to the Friends group or that would like to become a corporate member?

The Refuge needs Friends more now than ever, and your support will go a long way in helping us to develop strong and long-lasting community bonds that will allow present and future generations to enjoy nature in a protected and well managed environment for years to come.

If you have questions about the intern position, your level of donation, or related subjects, please feel free to contact our board members listed below.

Your generous consideration is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Johannsen, President: gci_83651@yahoo.com, 208- 467-7515

Dixie Blome, Secretary: dvblome@hughes.net, 208- 466-2148

Bob Christensen, Treasurer: rcloydchris@juno.com, 208-454-2518



2012 Membership Application

* * * *

Please fill out this page and return with a check payable to:

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge
13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

 Name

 Address

 City

 State Zip Code

 Telephone

Email address (please include email address if you have one – this is our primary means of communicating with Friends members)

Annual Membership Categories:		Donation for Intern	TOTAL
Owl (Senior & Student)	\$10	_____	_____
Deer (Individual)	\$15	_____	_____
Fox (Family)	\$25	_____	_____
Osprey	\$50	_____	_____
Eagle	\$100	_____	_____
Goldeneye	\$500	_____	_____

Friends Activities

Please Mark the Activities that Interest you:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat enhancement | <input type="checkbox"/> Public relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staffing the bookstore | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeting Refuge visitors | <input type="checkbox"/> Lobby on behalf of the Refuge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping organize an event | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Litter pickup | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weed eradication | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education events | |



**FRIENDS OF DEER
FLAT WILDLIFE
REFUGE**

13751 Upper Embankment
Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

Executive Board:

***President - Genevieve
Johannsen (467-7515)
Vice President - Vacant
Secretary - Vacant
Treasurer - Bob
Christensen (454-2518)***

***Newsletter - Denise Hughes
(850-5885)***

**We are on the web at:
[www.fws.gov/deerflat/
friends.htm](http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/friends.htm)**

To preserves and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

The Grebe is published four times a year — look for the next issue in Spring 2012

Lecture Series

Identifying the Raptors of southwest Idaho

Speaker:
Dr. Leon
Powers



Learn how to identify the
raptors of Southwest
Idaho and why we have
such a high raptor density

What to do about Cheatgrass?

Speaker: Andy Ogden

Discover how cheat-
grass impacts native
plant communities, why
native communities are
important, and tech-
niques available to con-
trol (or at least reduce
the density of) cheat
grass



TBA

Speaker:

For information about
the Lecture Series
topic in March, contact
the refuge at 467-9278
or visit their website at
[http://www.fws.gov/
deerflat/management/
happenings/
currevents.html#wal](http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/management/happenings/currevents.html#wal)

